THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840.]

"*When you are in doubt tell the truth.*"—MARK TWAIN.

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WHAT CHRISTMAS SUGGESTS TO A LATTER-DAY SAINT.

BY THE FIRST PRESIDENCY.

CHRISTMAS, to the Latter-day Saint, is both reminiscent and prophetic—a reminder of two great and solemn events, which will yet be regarded universally as the mightiest and most wonderful happenings in the history of the human race. These events were predestined to take place upon this planet before it was created. One of them was the coming of the Savior in the meridian of time, to die for the sins of the world; and the other is the prospective advent of the risen and glorified Redeemer, to reign upon the earth as King of kings.

Something of a parallel is suggested by events leading up to the two mighty epochs in question.

A work of preparation was necessary before the Son of God came in the flesh, to give His life as a vicarious offering to atone for original sin—the transgression of Adam and Eve—and to make it possible for man to secure the remission of his own sins, through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. Even so, a preparatory work is necessary, and is now being performed, before the second advent of the Lord. Otherwise the earth would be consumed at His coming.

Preliminary to the first advent, a Prophet was raised up to herald the Savior's approach, and to administer ordinances of a preparatory nature—such as water baptism for the remission of

sins—unto all who were willing to repent, that they might be worthy to meet the Lamb of God, the "mightier One" who would "baptize them with fire and with the Holy Ghost." A Prophet also came forth at the beginning of the nineteenth century, to proclaim the ancient gospel, to call men to repentance, to lift an ensign for the gathering of Israel, and to lay the foundations of a work designed to prepare the world for the glorious advent of the Messiah, and the ushering in of the Millennial reign of peace.

The mission of John the Forerunner paved the way for the greater ministry of Christ, whose name, through the preaching of the Apostles and their associates, was heralded throughout the then known world, and has been perpetuated and revered all down the centuries by millions of sincere and honest worshipers. And this, too, in spite of the malign influences of Paganism, which early corrupted the Christian Church, and rendered necessary the restoration of the gospel, with the powers of the priesthood, and the re-establishment of the Church of Christ on earth. The mission of Joseph the Seer, who stands at the head of this dispensation, is destined to spread the fame of the Redeemer still wider, and eventuate in the founding of a kingdom that shall stand forever, whose King will sanctify the earth and prepare it for celestial glory.

John suffered martyrdom for what he did in preparing the way of the Lord—and Joseph laid down his life in the same great cause. For it is all God's work—the things accomplished in the meridian dispensation and in the dispensations preceding it, as well as the great achievements reserved for the dispensation of the fulness of times, when the Lord will complete the salvation of man, and consummate the work begun by Him when He placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Adam fell that a world of waiting spirits who had kept their first estate, and were therefore worthy of promotion, might be "added upon" by being given mortal bodies in this their second estate, through which, if found faithful, they were to have "glory added upon their heads for ever and ever." The fall of Adam, while it brought death into the world, also gave opportunities for experience and development, by which perfection might be attained, while the atonement of Christ, in bursting the bands of death, made effectual man's strivings for that infinite perfection, giving the spirit, through the resurrection, a glorified body, as a means of endless increase, eternal progress and everlasting exaltation.

As already intimated, there have been various dispensations of the gospel, which was first revealed to Adam out of heaven, where it was instituted as the means—the only means—of man's salvation. But the greatest dispensations are, without doubt, the two immediately connected with the resurrection, namely, the one in which Christ Himself rose from the dead, and the one in which He

will come in the clouds of heaven, simultaneously with the resurrection of the just, who are to reign with Him a thousand years. This final dispensation will witness the restitution of all things, the welding together of all the dispensations, the gathering into one of all things in Christ, things in heaven as well as upon the earth.

Such in brief is the divine program, as revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the latter-day restorer of the religion of Jesus Christ, the pre-ordained plan of salvation. This also is the significance of Christmas, or it is what Christmas suggests to the mind of any thoughtful Latter-day Saint.

It is in honor of our Lord that we observe this day, one celebrated throughout Christendom as the birthday of the world's Redeemer. Christ is God, even Jehovah, the God of Israel, and as such we worship Him. And we also honor the memory of His faithful servants John and Joseph, who, in missions involving their martyrdom, went before His face, opening and preparing the way.

In the light of these solemn facts, and in the spirit of charity and good-will exemplified and enjoined by our blessed Redeemer, we send forth to the Latter-day Saints and to all the world, a hearty and kindly Christmas greeting!

Let no one suppose that "Mormonism," so-called, is here to make war upon men, or upon creeds, governments, and institutions that men revere. It sustains law, order, liberty and truth, the world over. The Latter-day Saints are friends, not enemies, to mankind. That we have a message to deliver we know; and, God being our helper, we will deliver it, come life or death, come weal or woe! But we purpose doing this in the spirit of peace, in the spirit of patience and brotherly love, forgiving our enemies, and returning good for evil; oppressing no man for refusing to listen to our testimony, nor ridiculing what he holds sacred, however false or foolish it may appear to us. The liberty of conscience is inviolable, and we stand ready to defend all men in the exercise of this sacred, God-given right. We may be abused and slandered for exercising this right ourselves, but heaven forbid that we should deny it to others! Despite the human weakness that all men possess, and which prompts them to retaliate when they feel themselves wronged, we will endeavor, with the help of the Lord, to follow His divine injunction: "When men revile you, revile not again." Our plain and simple duty is the preaching of the gospel, the gathering of scattered Israel, the redemption of Zion, and the salvation of the living and the dead. We have no warfare to wage against our fellow-men, no wrongs that we wish to avenge. We leave that to Him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." May He be merciful to those who misrepresent and bring trouble upon His people!

This gospel of the Kingdom was preached aforetimes as a witness

unto all nations; and it is now being preached again for the last time and for a similar purpose. The "end" foreseen and predicted by the Savior, that was to follow its promulgation in ancient times, came in the downfall of wickedness, represented by the Jewish Commonwealth which had rejected the Son of God, and the message of salvation. The greater "end," also foreseen and predicted by Him, that will inevitably follow the rejection of the gospel in modern times, will come in the destruction of wickedness throughout the world.

But these issues are all in the hands of the Lord. He will do His own work in His own time and way. Our mission is not to curse, but to bless; not to punish or threaten, but to persuade men to do right. We preach salvation, not damnation; and in this spirit we send forth this greeting, echoing, and, if possible, emphasizing the salutation of the angels to the shepherds, on the first great Christmas night: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPES FROM DEATH.

OUT of gratitude to my Heavenly Father for His preserving care, I am penning this short article. By His Almighty power I have been saved from instant death a number of times, and I feel it my duty to put on record my testimony concerning His goodness and mercy to me.

One evening in the early part of November, 1907, as was my custom, I was on my way from South London to attend a cottage meeting which was held every Thursday evening at 97 Farleigh Road, Stoke-Newington, London, N. I was riding on a motor bus, and knowing that the conductors on those vehicles do not like to stop every few minutes to let passengers off, I decided to jump from the car while it was in motion, a very foolish thing for anyone to do. When the car reached the top of Farleigh Road, I sprang from it. I was sent across the street at a very rapid pace and landed in front of another motor bus going the opposite direction. I closed my eyes, feeling that my hour had come. The motor came to a sudden stop, and motorman and passengers rushed from the car expecting to find me ground to pieces. Not seeing me under the car or on the ground, they began to look around, when the conductor espied me clinging to a lamp-post on the corner of the street. He came over to me and asked me if I were hurt. I answered that I did not know. On recovering from my fright I found to my great joy that I had sustained no injury whatever. The passengers were filled with astonishment, as they

expected to see me picked up a corpse. How I got on the sidewalk I do not know; but I feel certain my guardian angel was present and assisted me, for it was a miracle to us all that I was not killed.

One day, a few months later, as I was returning to London from Brighton, I met with another accident which, had it not been for the preserving power of God, would have ended my days on earth. My companion and I were riding our bicycles. As we entered the city, and while crossing the electric street car tracks, the chain of my bicycle broke and fell into the opening in the middle of the track through which the electric power comes from under the ground to propel the cars. Immediately a flash of fire shot up several feet in the air, and my chain began to burn like a piece of wood. Fortunately for me, the chain dropped entirely clear of the bicycle. Had it remained attached to the machine, I would have been electrocuted on the spot. When I thought of this, and also of the other miraculous escape chronicled above, my heart was again filled with thanks and praise to God for His great deliverance.

A few weeks ago I was confined to my bed with a severe cold. One morning I awoke from a short sleep to find myself in great pain, accompanied by a high fever. I felt, as it were, a heavy weight upon me, which seemed to be crushing the life out of me. It seemed to me that I would not live much longer. I made an effort to call to the elders in an adjoining room to come and administer to me, but found my tongue tied so that I could not speak. I tried to move my hands but they also seemed to be paralyzed. I tried to get up to go to where the elders were sleeping, but could not move a muscle. Sweat was running from my body; I realized that I was in a serious condition, and that if help did not arrive soon my days on earth would shortly be ended. I remained in this condition for upwards of half an hour.

Realizing that my life depended on my getting up and procuring assistance, I made an effort to rise, praying to the Lord in my heart to deliver me from the power of the destroyer. I succeeded in getting half-way round in the bed, when I suddenly discovered that there was someone in the room, and on looking round I saw standing beside my bed, dressed in a beautiful, white robe, and with arms stretched over me, a personage of surpassing beauty. I wondered if I were in a trance; but no, I was wide awake. I looked at the messenger from the unseen world for a few seconds when the ministering spirit gradually withdrew from before me and the vision closed.

I lay for some time meditating upon this strange visitation, and then my mind reverted to my former critical condition. I found to my unbounded joy that my limbs had regained their strength and that my speech had also returned. The fever had disappeared and with it the intense pain. I was very weak however and felt as if I had been confined to bed for several weeks. But I shall never forget the sweet, peaceful feeling I experienced. Never in

all my life had I felt so happy as I did then. I realized that the Lord had heard my prayer and had sent His messenger to deliver me from death. It was to me also an evidence that He has accepted my humble efforts in the mission field. I praise him for all His mercies and hope that I may have power to do right, to shun evil, and to walk in the strait and narrow way that leads to His eternal presence. I am very thankful for the privilege of being on a mission. The best time of my life has been spent in preaching the word of God, and my greatest desire is to spend many years in His service crying repentance to my fellow-men, and in telling them of the restored gospel, that they may escape the judgments of the Lord and be saved in His kingdom.—SOREN PETERSON.

YOUR OWN SPECIAL WORK.

EMERSON says, "Nature arms each man with some faculty which enables him to do easily some feat impossible to any other." How this thought ought to put an end at once to all envy in life—grieving at another's good. You have been given that great angelic gift—free will—and it is for you, and only you, to gain the grand victory; by noble work in your own kingdom to create and rule.

It is a wonderful truth that no one is put into life without a special work to do. You need not try to annihilate ambition. Keep it in bounds. You should not let your talents be idle, nor neglect to make the most of them; but keep their development forever subordinate to loving deeds for humanity.

You can make a heroic life out of whatever material you have to work on. I believe that there is no impediment that cannot be overcome, no hindrance to usefulness that cannot be removed. If you go through life timidly, weakly, ineffectively, the fault is with yourself.

Those that do recognize the power within themselves of using the will and energy that all possess, to do their part nobly, unselfishly, no man can interrupt and God will not. There are circumstances in your life that you can change. There are efforts that your own efforts will enlarge. You can conquer many difficulties that confront you, and in conquering be strong. Your environment may be very disagreeable, it may bring heartache, at times wounded pride, but there is a reason in all this. The soul must fight something, struggle against obstacles to wear the victor's crown.

Some of the world's grandest characters were surrounded with anything but cheering environments, yet in time they stood on the highest peak, were conquerors of height, discerners of immensity, monarchs of space, and realized more and more in their sublimity the grandeur of the power intrusted to each individual soul.

Each one has the power within him of becoming a hero equal to

any whose monuments for life's devotion to humanity are now crumbling away. Not by killing, destroying, burning cities and starving out weaker camps, where supplies are short (such conquerors are not always to be envied), but a warrior over greed, selfishness, and all that is wrong, finding that great peace in seeking the sweet fountains of life, the treasure caves and the jewel closets, and sharing with humanity the sweet joys found. Illness, fatigue, weakness, sorrow, none of these can excuse you from your own individual work. Unutterable agony may be subdued by you. Hearts lightened by your love, the sick soothed, the lonely comforted, so many are waiting, yes, for you—only you. The problems of life are not what has to do with our birth. Our destiny is as we make it. In any line you may be a genius, for what is genius but application. That for which the human race has the strongest claim upon its workmen is the representation of its best. And no matter what work you do, where duty calls, if nobly done when completed it is a masterpiece just as much as any work done by the so-called "masters."

A poor artist visited with friends in a castle and was royally entertained. He had nothing with which to repay his friends, so before leaving he shut himself in his room for some days. When he was gone his friends were surprised to find in his room a grand picture of "Alexander in the Tent of Darius."

Have you noticed the great fields of heroism around you in the lives of the laboring classes? Not in the clanging fights and desperate marches are heroes always to be found, but on the railway bridge and fireproof buildings, freight and passenger trains, on the decks of vessels, in the mines, on lumber rafts, among the firemen and policemen, the demand for courage never fails. And wherever a scythe, an axe, a pick or a shovel is wielded you have an example of powers of patient endurance, often racked to the utmost under long hours of strain. The environment was not always encouraging there, but in obeying the call from duty they have become soldiers, and very often the heroes of the nation. In the grand symphony of the universe the chiming of metals plays an important part.

In every life is a beckoning star for you to follow, to lead on to brighter worlds, and the surest method of arriving at the knowledge that it is so is the right use of the present moment in creating an atmosphere of love for humanity, of sharing your joys with others or ruling your kingdom royally—for none but you—only you—can do so.

The Holy Supper is kept indeed,
In whatso we share with another's need.
Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare.
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three:
Himself, his hungering neighbor and Me.

AUNT JO.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1908.

RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE.

WELCOME the glad New Year! While we know that time keeps up the regular pace in which it has moved from creation's dawn, in this age of rapid events it appears to hurry on in keeping with the swiftness of the electric current and the speed that marks modern motions and methods. Nineteen hundred and eight is upon us before we have had leisure to think over or appreciate the doings of nineteen hundred and seven, the beginning of which seems but as yesterday.

This has been a busy year for all who are engaged in the great latter-day work. At home, in Zion, and abroad among the nations, increased activity has marked each month and day, and the energies of the leaders and the people have been kept in service, apparently to the limit. The First Presidency, the Twelve Apostles, the Seven Presidents of the Seventies and all the various authorities and quorums have been kept busy attending to the interests of the Church, the building up of Zion, the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Saints, and the extension of the work throughout the world. Presidents of missions and conferences and branches abroad, upon both hemispheres, have spared no effort, neglected no opportunity and wasted no time in regulating affairs and directing missionary labors for the accomplishment of the best possible results.

Past experiences, however, suggest future improvements, and it is to be hoped and expected that the successes of 1907 will be followed by greater advancements and triumphs in 1908. Not that we can all work harder, perhaps, but that we can profit by what we have learned and see more clearly that which lies before us.

The General Conferences at headquarters in April and October were among the grandest gatherings of the Church, both in numbers and in interest. 1907 saw the Church entirely free from debt and with its properties in a solid, stable condition. Spacious edifices for public worship grace the various stakes and wards. The four great Temples have been kept at work in the administration of ordinances for the living and the dead. Missionaries have been

called and set apart in large numbers and sent out to the mission fields. They have traveled in safety and entered upon their work with zeal and confidence.

In the United States a splendid record has been made in every mission. New measures have been adopted with excellent results. The publication of *Liahona, the Elders' Journal*, at Independence, Mo., the centre place for the latter-day Zion, has given a marked impetus to the work. On the islands of the sea much progress has been made in the strengthening of the branches of the Church, the building of meeting-houses, the preaching of the gospel in the language of the natives, and in weeding out such dead plants as cumbered the ground. The industries that have been established have prospered greatly, and the faith of the saints there has been increased.

In Europe the progress made has been wonderfully encouraging. A softening spirit has moved upon the masses of mankind so that violent opposition has been of rare occurrence. The elders have pursued their labors in comparative peace. In Great Britain street preaching has been followed diligently in many places, and crowds of people have heard the gospel by that means. Tracts and pamphlets have been distributed by the hundreds of thousands, and personal conversations have been had at the doors and in the homes of all who would listen to the gospel message. The hall and cottage meetings have been well attended, and though great apathy and indifference prevail, yet much interest has been aroused and baptisms have been numerous, while prospects are bright for further increase.

Some hostility has been exhibited by a few of the clergy, as usual accompanied with bitterness and misrepresentation and an evident desire to stir up something more than polemical force. But this has not succeeded, although it has caused the slamming of many doors and the rejection of our literature, in response to the advice of such ministers to "refuse to listen to the Elders," and to "burn their tracts." This has excited curiosity and resulted in some additions to our ranks. The seeds sown in past years under former presidencies have ripened and brought forth fruit, which is seen in our reports of baptisms during the year.

The health of the missionaries has been usually excellent. The climate affects a few unfavorably, and there have been cases of severe sickness in which, however, some remarkable healings have been effected through faith and the laying on of hands. All hearts were pained by the decease of our brother Harvey L. Angell, who succumbed to typhoid fever, particulars of which have been published in the STAR. It is believed that he and Elders Eli B. Rodgers and Thomas R. Wilks contracted the disease on board ship while coming to this country together. They were all taken down with it, Elder Rodgers in Germany and Elder Wilks while on the way to South Africa. Elder Angell's remains were em-

balmed and hermetically sealed and sent to Utah. Much sympathy is felt for his parents and friends.

The Swiss and German mission is prospering under able supervision and diligent missionary work. A spirit of inquiry is moving upon the people, and the Lord is blessing the efforts of His servants to disseminate truth and overcome error. Some difficulties have been met because of misunderstanding concerning the purpose of the elders, but they have not been very serious, and it is hoped that religious liberty will prevail and arbitrary restrictions will give way. They are attributable to the hostile movements of sectarian ministers and false reports of unscrupulous enemies. God is working upon the hearts of the people and our brethren are doing their part.

In the Netherlands a grand work is being accomplished. The Dutch people are familiar with the scriptures, and the spirit of freedom which inspired the Pilgrim Fathers when they fled to the West burns in the hearts of the Hollanders; they receive the gospel gladly and are not under bonds to prevent their obeying it. So the work is moving on gloriously there, and souls are being added frequently to the branches established which are flourishing and in fine order. In Belgium there have been a number of baptisms and the missionaries are laboring with commendable zeal, but the people there are different in language and in customs and habits from the Hollanders, being French in speech and Frenchy in spirit. But the work is moving forward there encouragingly.

In the Scandinavian mission, comprising Denmark and Norway, the President and the elders are working with a will and with commendable diligence. There is a feeling of apathy among the people there generally as to religion. This renders it somewhat difficult to make great progress, but the reports for the year will show that much has been done in the way of work and much has been accomplished in the way of conversions. The erection of a fine meeting-house with suitable offices, baptistry and other apartments at Aalborg, has been one of the gratifying movements of the year. An account of its dedication, with other particulars, has already appeared in the MILLENNIAL STAR. Prospects are good in Scandinavia for the new year upon which we are entering.

It is the same in Sweden. The missionaries, under the direction of a president thoroughly familiar with the country, the language, and the work in all its details, are striving with their might to spread the gospel and wake up the people to a realization of its importance. And they are meeting with some success, as shown in results. At the same time they are warning the nation and searching out the seed of Israel. The saints there are united and progressive, and enjoy an excellent spirit. The death of King Oscar was one of the great calamities of the year, as he was a grand monarch and a friend to civil and religious liberty.

The Turkish mission has made progress during the year, not-

withstanding the obstacles in the way and the peculiar customs, language and religion of the people in the countries that comprise it. Some baptisms have been performed and much interest aroused, but conditions are vastly different there to those in the countries called Christian. The laws and regulations are also unlike those of other nations and make an American restive and astonished. As an example: Packages of the Book of Mormon, which has been printed in Turkish, after being examined by the Censor and permitted to pass into the Empire, were stopped by a subordinate official at a port of entry, and every effort made by our brethren, aided by the United States Consul, has so far failed to hurry the matter forward, after months of detention. And there seems to be no valid reason, in law or common sense, for the prolonged delay. Yet the work is moving on in Syria and Egypt and Greece. At the far-famed city of Athens, in addition to the publication in Greek of "The Rays of Living Light," "The Story of Mormonism," by Dr. Talmage is being translated and other works are likely to follow as there are many inquirers at that place.

In South Africa also success is crowning the labors of the elders. The branches at Cape Colony are in good condition and there have been a number of baptisms, with cheering prospects for the New Year. More missionaries are needed there, as in many other places. Recently Elders T. R. Wilks and L. O. Brough on arriving there, were informed that they would be deported because they did not have the full sum of £20 each to show as "landing money." Friends offered the amount and more, and respectable residents guaranteed that they would not become a public charge, but all without avail. Elder Wilks being ill with typhoid was taken to a hospital, and his companion was permitted to stay until he was able to travel. Meanwhile every effort possible has been made to secure their stay, but at latest accounts they were refused the privilege. The only actual reason for this proceeding seems to be that "they are Mormon elders." And yet Cape Colony is under British government!

The release of President Alex. Nibley from the Netherlands-Belgium mission was followed by the appointment of President Sylvester Q. Cannon, who is an able successor to the active and diligent elder who will be long remembered with love by the saints in that field. President Cannon has taken hold of the work with the vim expected of him, and everything is moving along finely under his jurisdiction. So in Scandinavia under President Soren Rasmussen, who succeeded President J. M. Christensen, a faithful and devoted servant of the Lord, who performed a most excellent mission and has returned to his home in honor. President Peter Matson, whose place is hard to fill, still remains over the Swedish mission, although he has labored long and efficiently for considerably more than two years, and enters now upon another year of duty. So with the ever vigorous, active and un-

tiring President Serge F. Ballif, whom the saints and elders love and who has spent several years in the Swiss and German mission. He is admirably adapted for the place, and in this new year will be just as devoted as ever to the important duties that engross his thoughts and energies and life. President Wilford J. Booth, who has performed a long and splendid work in the Turkish mission, still presides there with honor and credit. President Ralph A. Badger remains in charge of the South African mission, but will probably be released during the present year, having accomplished much in that far-off land in the great cause of salvation.

Some changes have occurred during the year among the general authorities of the Church: Elder George Teasdale, one of the Twelve Apostles, a veteran in the army of the Kingdom, passed away to his rest after a well spent life of 76 years, and Elder Anthony W. Ivins was chosen and ordained to fill the vacancy in that quorum. Bishop Robert T. Burton, First Counselor to Presiding Bishop W. B. Preston, another noble veteran, also departed to the spirit sphere, aged 86 years, most of his days having been devoted to the work of the Lord in various important capacities. Bishop Preston, being in somewhat feeble condition and of advanced age, has been honorably released from the arduous duties of the Bishopric. This rendered necessary the re-organization of that body. Elder Charles W. Nibley has been appointed and ordained to the office of Presiding Bishop of the Church, and Orrin P. Miller, who was Second Counselor to Bishop Preston, is now First Counselor to Bishop Nibley, Elder David A. Smith being appointed Second Counselor. This is a strong organization. Bishop Nibley is an experienced business man, successful in large enterprises, yet highly spiritual withal; Bishop Miller is also a practical man of affairs and sound in doctrine, and the same can be said of Bishop Smith; although much younger in years than the other two, he possesses the qualifications needed for the office. The entire Bishopric is worthy the confidence and faith of the Church and adapted for that responsible position. That faithful old Chief Clerk, James Jack, has been retired honorably from the President's office, and is succeeded by Elder Arthur Winter, who is well qualified for the post.

During the past year the President of the European mission has visited every conference in the British Isles, which of course includes Scotland and Ireland, all of them twice but two, and has attended many district as well as conference meetings and a number of branch meetings, on Sundays and week days. He has also made a tour of conferences in Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, Holland and Belgium, holding priesthood and general meetings, counseling, preaching, expounding, etc., and by sea and land has been signally blest and protected. Sister Romania B. Penrose has accompanied him to many of those lands and gatherings, giving advice and suitable instructions to

the sisters and especially to the Relief Societies, aiding in the organization of twenty-five new societies which are doing a great amount of good. He has also had the oversight of the business of the Liverpool office, which is of much importance, being an emigration as well as a printing and publishing concern, and of the MILLENNIAL STAR, writing the editorials and watching over the work generally. In the latter he has had the able assistance and support of Elder William A. Morton, whose writings are well known and appreciated throughout the mission. In the former he has had the great help of the secretary, Elder John S. Smith, bookkeeper and cashier, who succeeded Elder R. Eugene Allen after his release to return home in July, and who was a most efficient and faithful worker. Elder J. Robert Price was released from the Liverpool office as emigration and general clerk and returned home in November, after filling a splendid mission; Elder Joseph S. Mulliner, Jr., was called to fill his place, and is now serving in the office with great credit.

The emigration work has been conducted with excellent success. During the year 1,505 persons have been booked at the Liverpool office for America, nearly all for Utah, traveling by the White Star and Dominion steamers and chiefly on the Boston and Maine, Nickel Plate, Great Western and Union Pacific railways, in comfort and safety. As there have been many untruthful reports concerning the personnel of those emigrants we here furnish the figures from the records, for the information of our friends and the public: Males 791, females, 714. Of these, 1,136 were adults, 164 between 5 and 12 years, 122 between 1 and 5 years, and 33 infants. Our companies travel in families and under experienced care and direction. All the stories circulated about the "shipment of girls to Utah" are sheer fiction.

The printing and publishing department of the Liverpool office has not been idle. During the year 4,623,500 tracts have been printed, over a million of them being "Rays of Living Light." In addition 178,000 pamphlets of a larger kind have been printed, besides numerous blanks and forms. These do not include publications printed for us by outside firms. The MILLENNIAL STAR has been issued regularly and on time, and is subscribed for by many persons not connected with the Church. Our presses and machines are run by electricity and the entire premises, house, business office and meeting-room are in immediate connection.

Changes have been effected in many conference presidencies in consequence of the release and return home of a number of the brethren, all of whom left with the confidence and esteem of the saints and of the mission president, and have been succeeded by equally able men. Some transfers have been made of elders to different conferences, but these have been few in number. Many of the most experienced elders have obtained an honorable release, after filling good missions and acquiring valuable experience. A

sufficient number of new recruits for the missionary ranks have come to fill their vacancies, but the cry is raised for "more." There are demands for men in every part of the European mission, but they must be workers and men of faith, exemplary and ready to go forward and never flinch.

The saints generally are alive in the Lord. As ever, a few are in the background, blind to their own interests, careless as to their eternal welfare. But the majority attend to their public duties, their home prayers, the payment of their tithes in which they are prospered temporally and blessed spiritually, observing the Word of Wisdom, warning their neighbors, rejoicing in the testimony of the gospel and looking towards Zion in hope and faith. Some have suffered from the ill-will and persecution of relatives and former friends, but that has only brought them closer to Christ and strengthened them in their convictions and their determinations to stand for the right.

On the whole, the work of the year nineteen hundred and seven may be regarded with satisfaction. This will be more clearly seen and more deeply felt when the detailed reports for the year are compiled and published in the STAR. We hope the conference and mission clerks will be prompt and accurate in making them out and forwarding them to this office. While we may feel grateful and content with what those reports shall record, it is sure that none of us have done more than our duty or sufficient to justify future laxity or negligence. The year 1908 opens with a call to us for continued energy and increased faithfulness and desire for progress. Millions of our fellows, sons and daughters of the Most High, are in dense darkness. We have the light. Therefore let it shine! We have had a little respite during the holiday season, in which it is hoped all have had a happy Christmas time, now let us start afresh with the opening year, and make the report of our labors at its close glow with added lustre and show to the heavens and the earth that we have done our best and are worthy of full approbation. In thankfulness for that which has been accomplished in the past, we rejoice in the present, and face the future with glorious anticipation, and wish to all, at home and abroad, that this may be to them indeed a prosperous, bounteous and happy New Year.

C. W. P.

WHO is a true man? He who does the truth, and never holds a principle on which he is not prepared in any hour to act, and in any hour to risk the consequence of holding it.—THOMAS CARLYLE.

BE thankful every morning that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance, self-control, diligence, strength of will, content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.—CHARLES KINGSLEY.

The Christmas "Deseret News."—The Christmas edition of the *Deseret Evening News*, Salt Lake City, was issued on Saturday, December 14th, so as to be ready for the holidays in distant places. It has reached the office of the MILLENNIAL STAR and, as usual, has brought pleasure and information, with the air of the mountains, and the spirit of Zion. It is a magnificent paper, unequalled in this country and unsurpassed in any part of the globe. It consists of a hundred pages of reading matter with the illuminated cover, and is devoted chiefly to the affairs of three states, namely, Utah, Idaho and Nevada, but gives news and interesting data about the world in general. Art, science, literature, education, religion, music, the drama, agriculture, mining, manufactures, architecture, irrigation and all the interests of the great West are treated of, illustrated with fine cuts in the usual high style for which that paper is celebrated. To people who know nothing of Utah but that which is told by her adversaries, the Christmas *News* is a startling revelation and shows that the people of that mountain state are far advanced on the road of progressive civilization. The paper is a marvel of enterprise and skill, and all hands engaged in its production, from press and composition rooms to the editorial and managing departments, are to be congratulated on the splendid Christmas edition of 1907. We copy from it to-day the address of the First Presidency of the Church, as the opening article in the STAR for the New Year.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Baptisms.—A baptismal service was held at the Belpher Street Baths, Blackburn, on Saturday, December 28th. A large number of saints and friends gathered to witness the ceremony. Elder D. R. Tolman and President Thomas S. Gregson spoke upon the object of the sacred ordinance, after which twelve persons were baptized by Elders L. Garrick, William A. Jones and Franklin E. Wadsworth. Six of the converts were from Blackburn and six from Preston.

A baptismal service was held at the Tibberton Square Baths, London, on December 29th, 1907, at 12:30. About one hundred persons assembled to witness the sacred ordinance. After the usual opening exercises Elder William A. Morton addressed the assembly, showing that there is only one true gospel and one true Church. Seven converts were then baptized, Elders C. A. Sperry, M. M. Hatch, William A. Skidmore and H. R. Kirkham, officiating. A confirmation service was held at 97 Farleigh Road, Stoke-Newington, London, N., at 4 p.m. of the same day.

Four members were added to the Scottish conference on Saturday evening last. The baptisms took place in the Townhead Baths,

Glasgow, and were performed by Elders W. L. Adams and N. D. Nelson. Appropriate preliminary remarks were made by Elder W. E. Eccles.

ANOTHER CHANCE.

And so you failed? The task was great,
Or it may be your strength was small?
What profit now to rail at fate,
Or make excuses for your fall?
Why fret or grieve at humbled pride,
Or chide the chain of circumstance?
The world is long, the world is wide—
Go, give yourself another chance.

But others suffered? Faith was lost?
Some sacrifice of others' trust?
And you, a derelict, storm-tossed,
Drift back to ask them to be just,
To quail beneath the doubting frown,
To feel the stern, accusing glance?
Have done! Set back, or sail or drown—
But give yourself another chance.

Yours is the greater faith to die,
Yours is the richer worth to live,
And from yourself you take or buy,
And to yourself you sell or give.
A coward he whose soul must cringe
Before the eyes that look askance—
The sky still holds its azure tinge;
Go, give yourself another chance.

And ask no odds of any man,
Save from yourself; for you alone
Know why your purpose or your plan
Was brought to naught or overthrown.
The battle goes to those who rise,
Whose hands clutch for the broken lance,
Whose dented shield the foe defies—
Up, give yourself another chance!

W. D. N., in *Chicago Tribune.*

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